



RHODE ISLAND  
**NURSES INSTITUTE  
MIDDLE COLLEGE**  
CHARTER SCHOOL

RE: Ana Cruz: Against Rhode Island House Bill 5193

March 19, 2021

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the Committee,

Charter schools are great and the students deserve a great education and parents should have their choices respected. If they have a choice, charter schools are great for their children's education path.

My child currently attends Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College (RINI), the state's only approved nursing career technical education program. Since attending RINI, I have seen them thrive. The school's program is challenging, but they are provided support along the way and encouraged to excel. The hands-on learning and field experience keeps them engaged. Mostly importantly, they will leave RINI with college credits, credentials, and a pathway to college or a job in the healthcare field. These are opportunities not available at their home-district's high school.

My child and other Rhode Island children cannot wait for under-performing district schools to turn things around. We have been waiting long enough.

RINI is serving a critical need in Rhode Island – preparing the next generation of nurses and healthcare workers. The school was created in 2011 to address the lack of diversity in the Rhode Island nursing workforce and the projected shortage of registered nurses. The global pandemic has only made RINI's mission even more important.

**Senate Bill S-13 and House Bill H-5193** will hinder the R.I. Nurses Institute Middle College in their pursuit of this important goal and their modest expansion request (228 new seats) that has already been approved by the R.I. Department of Education. Families have already begun applying for these new seats for next year – they should be provided the opportunity to give their student a strong education and prepare them for success in the healthcare field.

Sincerely,  
Ana Cruz  
Providence, RI